

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8330

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ASMARA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 1377

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, CASC, ET

SUBJECT: TENNECO SIX

REF: STATE 125559

1. WHILE ISSUE CERTAINLY APPEARS ON DEAD CENTER, WE WONDER WHETHER THIS MAY NOT IN FACT MASK INTENSE INTERNECINE DISCUSSION ON PART ELF RE SIXTY-FOUR DOLLAR QUESTION OF WHETHER EXTENDED DETENTION HOSTAGES IN ELF INTEREST. SIGNALS SUGGEST VARIOUS ELF FACTIONS SEEKING BOTH INFLUENCE FINAL OUTCOME AND ASSURE MAXIMUM BENEFIT FROM ANY SETTLEMENT FLOWS TO THEIR PARTICULAR GROUP. IN CIRCUMSTANCES, WE DO NOT BELIEVE SUFFICIENT TIME HAS PASSED TO JUDGE WHETHER ZEIN CHANNEL NO LONGER NOTABLY PRODUCTIVE. FOR MOMENT, THEREFORE, WE WOULD QUESTION DESIRABILITY REOPENING MORGHANY CHANNEL AS LIKELY ADD COMPLICATING FACTOR TO ALREADY CONFUSED SITUATION. WE OF COURSE IN NO POSITION JUDGE UTILITY MORGHANY CHANNEL PER SE BUT WOULD HOPE ELF UNDERTAKING RELEASE TWO HOSTAGES, TRANSMITTED BY ZEIN, MIGHT BE GIVEN SEVERAL MORE DAYS TO RUN IN HOPES IT MAY STILL BE IMPLEMENTED.

2. RE PARA 2 REFTTEL, BELIEVE BALL CLEARLY IN ELF COURT THROUGH ZEIN CHANNEL. IN EVENT THIS REACTIVATED WE WOULD OF COURSE WISH GRAHAM COME IMMEDIATELY FROM ADDIS. MEANWHILE BEST SUPPORT WHICH MIGHT BE PROVIDED ZEIN WOULD BE FOR US TO PASS TO HIM, VIA GOS, PRIVATE IEG ASSURANCE THAT FIVE JAILED ELF TYPES WILL BE
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RELEASED AS SOON AS TWO TENNECO HOSTAGES SET FREE. THIS

CONNECTION, RECENT EXCHANGES RELATIVE NURSE DORTZBACH AGAIN SUGGEST THAT, DESPITE ZEIN'S CLAIM THAT ALL HOSTAGES CONTROLLED BY ELF/GC, NURSE APPARENTLY BEING HELD BY SEPARATE GROUP. KARL DORTZBACH LETTER REPORTED ASMARA 0467 SEEMS TO US EXCELLENT EFFORT CONVINCE GROUP HOLDING MRS. DORTZBACH THAT SHE SHOULD NOW BE RELEASED.

3. AS TO POSSIBLE GOS THOUGHTS ON HOW PROCEED WITH NEGOTS (PARA 3 REFTEL), SUDANESE HAVE THROUGHOUT EXERCISE STRESSED THEIR DESIRE HAVE AS LITTLE TO DO WITH PROBLEM AS POSSIBLE, OTHER THAN FACILITATING AMERICAN CONTACTS WITH ELF UNDER MOST SECURE CONDITIONS. ACTING HEAD PUBLIC SAFETY KHALIFA HAS MADE NUMBER MINOR SUGGESTIONS, SUCH AS ENCOURAGING ZEIN MAINTAIN CONTACT, BUT GOS OFFICIALS WOULD PRESUMABLY NOT WISH BECOME MORE DIRECTLY INVOLVED THROUGH OFFERING SUBSTANTIVE SUGGESTIONS ON HOW TO PROCEED. ACCORDINGLY, APART FROM OUR CONTINUING INFORMAL BUT CLOSE LIAISON HERE, IN COURSE OF WHICH WE WILL CONTINUE EXPLORE ALL FEASIBLE SUGGESTIONS, QUESTION WHETHER USEFUL PURPOSE WOULD BE SERVED BY PROBING GOS MORE FORMALLY FOR SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS.

4. ADDIS 6733 RECEIVED SUBSEQUENT DRAFTING FOREGOING. WHILE WE CONCUR ZEIN'S ASSURANCES LOOKING THINNER, BELIEVE THEY NOT YET EMACIATED AND THAT IT WOULD BE PREMATURE WRITE THIS CHANNEL OFF. HOWEVER, IF OTHERS DETERMINE MORGHANY CHANNEL ACTUALLY EFFECTIVE--AS OPPOSED TO SIMPLY BEING DIFFERENT--WE WOULD CONCUR IT SHOULD AGAIN BE TRIED. HOWEVER, WE WONDER WHETHER PROBLEM IS INCREASINGLY NOT SO MUCH ONE OF FINDING AN EFFECTIVE CHANNEL (WHAT WOULD BE PASSED ELF THROUGH NEW CHANNEL THAT HAS NOT PREVIOUSLY BEEN PASSED) BUT OF ASSURING FAVORABLE ELF ACTION. FOR THIS PURPOSE, SOME PERIOD SILENCE MIGHT ENCOURAGE ELF GET ON WITH HARD DECISIONS FACING THEM.
BREWER

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